

# Biblical Call to Justice: COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE

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## I) The problem of suffering:

### 1. The basic problem:

- We are \_\_\_\_\_:
- Does the \_\_\_\_\_ mean that God is \_\_\_\_\_? :
  - \_\_\_\_\_: [[Reflecting on God's choice of Jacob over Esau: ... NIV - What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."]]

### 2. The purpose(s) of suffering

- Follow \_\_\_\_\_:
  - Mat 16:24 NLT -
  - 1Pe 2:20-21 NLT
  - Phil 3:10
- Learn to \_\_\_\_\_: 2 Cor 1:8-10
- Christ \_\_\_\_\_:
  - 1Pe 4:12-13:
  - 2 Cor 4:10-11
- \_\_\_\_\_: Heb 12:10
- God uses it \_\_\_\_\_: Romans 8:28
- Keeps us \_\_\_\_\_: Ps. 119:67
- \_\_\_\_\_: James 1:3-4
- Improved fruit: \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3. Compassion = Co-suffering

- Compassion is the latin translation of a \_\_\_\_\_, possibly coined by Paul (though related to a medical term used by Hippocrates)
  - Greek = *sympaschō* (from *sum* = \_\_\_\_\_ and *pascho* = \_\_\_\_\_)
  - English derivatives include \_\_\_\_\_.
- Greek term is used \_\_\_\_\_ times in the NT, twice by Paul, once by Peter

- 1 Cor 12:26 NIV - *If one part suffers, \_\_\_\_\_ suffers with it*; if one part is honored, every part \_\_\_\_\_ with it.
- Rom 8:17 NIV - Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed *we share \_\_\_\_\_* in order that we may also share in his glory.
- 1Pe 3:8-9 Finally, all [of you be] of one mind, \_\_\_\_\_ for one another; love as brothers, [be] tenderhearted, [be] courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that \_\_\_\_\_ to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

- Compassionate response to suffering requires \_\_\_\_\_,

not \_\_\_\_\_.

- Specific, biblical examples of compassionate responses to suffering:

- 2 Cor 1:11 : \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ - Share each other's burdens. (also Phl 4:14)
- 2 Cor 1:3-7: \_\_\_\_\_ as you have been \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ - When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.
- Rom 12:15 : \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Tim 1:16-18: \_\_\_\_\_

## II) Interlude: What I chose to do about this

### 1. The Challenge: IJM Freedom Tour, Cincinnati to Washington DC

- 24 people, 1 dog; 500 miles, 100 degree heat
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ raised for IJM -- \_\_\_\_\_ of people told the story

### 2. How does riding a bike help end injustice?

- It raised \_\_\_\_\_ both in myself and others.
- It raised \_\_\_\_\_.
- It created a \_\_\_\_\_ who continue to support one another in living a lifestyle directed toward ending injustice.

### 3. Next summer: Restore International Tour, Big Sur to San Diego

## III) What will you do?

Here are seven important action items that don't require leaving your community or riding a bike for 500 miles

### 1. Educate \_\_\_\_\_: yourself and your community

- Educate yourself with \_\_\_\_\_:
  - DISPOSABLE PEOPLE
  - HALF THE SKY
  - IN OUR BACKYARD: A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE UNITED STATES
  - ESCAPING THE DEVIL'S BEDROOM
  - A THOUSAND SISTERS
  - GOOD NEWS ABOUT INJUSTICE: A WITNESS OF COURAGE IN A HURTING WORLD
  - And there are many more that you can find easily.
- With research (the Internet makes this easy).
  - E.g., <http://www.faastinternational.org>, <http://www.last.net>
- Public Awareness \_\_\_\_\_.
  - <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/anti-trafficking>,
  - <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking>, brochures and posters
- \_\_\_\_\_ to people: friends, neighbors, children, and their teachers
  - <http://www.notforsalecampaign.org>

2. \_\_\_\_\_ **violent oppression by eliminating the conditions that traffickers utilize**

- The more \_\_\_\_\_ a community, the harder it is for traffickers to acquire “inventory.”
- One way to increase prosperity and to directly increase legitimate loans to replace the traffickers’ debts is by supporting \_\_\_\_\_
  - World Vision, Hope International, Kiva,
- Support efforts to keep children in \_\_\_\_\_
  - Align Ministries <http://www.alignministries.org/>
  - Restore International <http://www.restoreinternational.org/>
- Support efforts to protect \_\_\_\_\_.
  - <http://www.ventureexpeditions.org/page/donate-online> (Choose the refugee feeding program)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ **the demand**

- Be a conscientious \_\_\_\_\_.
- Goods list <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/programs/ocft/PDF/2011TVPRA.pdf>
- Slavery Footprint <http://slaveryfootprint.org/>
- Don’t visit countries that tolerate slavery; and tell their \_\_\_\_\_ bureaus
- Encourage \_\_\_\_\_ you use to clean-up their supply chains

4. **Recognize and \_\_\_\_\_ report suspicious local activity**

- Identify potential \_\_\_\_\_:
  - Is the person always accompanied by someone else
  - Does the person appear submissive
  - Does the person rarely get out
  - Does the person have his important \_\_\_\_\_ “safeguarded” by someone else?
- Call in tips to the national hotline: 1-888-3737-888
- More training materials <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/training/index.htm>

5. \_\_\_\_\_ **those held in bondage**

- This is usually \_\_\_\_\_ and not a job for amateurs
- Still we can support those who have the know-how with donations
- Instead of just your own donations, organize a \_\_\_\_\_ in your community

- A few agencies: [www.ijm.org](http://www.ijm.org), [CASTLA.org](http://CASTLA.org)

6. \_\_\_\_\_ and support those who have been rescued

- Buy \_\_\_\_\_ made by former slaves:
  - Jewel Girls and Made by Survivors
- Support agencies that provide services that educate and restore
  - IJM (currently hiring a So Cal Director of Strategic Partnerships)
  - <http://www.gracehavenhouse.org>;
  - <http://www.sharedhope.org>,
- Local organizations often need volunteers:
  - CASTLA is always in need of interpreters; right now, they are also looking for attorneys, law clerks, graphic designers, a shelter house manager, gardener, database manager and hotline operators
  - Restore International is looking for help with grant-writing
- The support can be in the form of \_\_\_\_\_ or equipment.
  - Giving Children Hope

7. \_\_\_\_\_!

- Ps. 89:14 "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you."
- The web sites of many anti-trafficking organizations list prayer requests:
  - <http://www.ijm.org/get-involved/prayer-partner>